

Construction Career Pathway

MISSOURI ECONOMIC RESEARCH & INFORMATION CENTER
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
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What are Career Pathways?

Career Pathways are groups of occupations within a career field. Occupations within a pathway share common skills, knowledge, and interests. The pathways use industry-recognized credentials and are examples of how different levels of training or education can help provide opportunities for career advancement.

Missouri Numbers:



17,000 Employers



146,641 Workers



\$78,653 Average Wage

Why Have a Career in Construction?

The Construction industry represents 5.9 percent of total private sector employment in Missouri, employing over 146,000 workers in 17,000 businesses in 2024. The average annual wage in this industry is \$78,653, higher than the state average of \$64,754 for private industries.

Missouri generally has lower industry concentration in Construction as compared to the United States. Employment in this industry has been steadily growing, increasing 3.2 percent per year from 2019 to 2024.

Along with formal training at community colleges and technical schools, many construction occupations, such as Carpenters, Bricklayers, and Cement Masons, can be mastered through paid apprenticeships. From Laborers to Engineers, there are various careers in the Construction fields of Skilled Trades, Engineering, and Quality Control.

Know the Basics

Construction depends heavily on delivering solidly built structures on a deadline, so the ability to plan, schedule, and follow directions while working on a team is important. Safety and quality control are also critical in this industry. Durable, or soft, skills, such as interpersonal skills, professionalism, and dependability, are important in all industries and occupations, including Construction.

Skills needed for Success:

Construction has industry-wide technical competencies that represent the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful in this industry. Some of the skills that may be needed for success in Construction are craftsmanship, both building and construction design, building, and installation, as well as business fundamental skills such as contracts, budgeting, and cost estimating.

Who's Hiring in Missouri?

J.E. Dunn Construction
Emery Sapp & Sons
Northpoint Development
Turner Construction Company
McCarthy Building Companies



Skilled Trades

Engineering & Quality Control

Now

Short-Term On-the-Job Training

Construction Laborers
Entry: \$44,000 Average: \$58,350

See Next and Later categories for job opportunities
in Engineering & Quality Control

Certificates: Construction Materials
Testing; Construction Site; Safety Technician

Next

Certificate, Associate Degree, Apprenticeship, Moderate- to Long-Term On-the-Job Training

Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters
Entry: \$49,340 Average: \$70,380

Electrical & Electronics Drafters
Entry: \$63,080 Average: \$80,070

Carpenters
Entry: \$47,370 Average: \$64,620

Architectural & Civil Drafters
Entry: \$52,160 Average: \$65,680

Electricians
Entry: \$48,740 Average: \$71,230

Mechanical Drafters
Entry: \$56,160 Average: \$71,040

HVAC Mechanics & Installers
Entry: \$46,550 Average: \$64,980

Certificates: Plumbing; Carpentry;
Electrician; HVAC Engineering
Technology/Technician

Degrees: Engineering
Certificates: CAD Certification

Later

Bachelor's Degree or Advanced Degree

Construction Managers
Entry: \$92,530 Average: \$115,900

Electrical Engineers
Entry: \$88,210 Average: \$114,670

Cost Estimators
Entry: \$54,190 Average: \$76,550

Civil Engineers
Entry: \$78,360 Average: \$97,050

Degrees: Construction Management; Business
Administration and Management

Degrees: Engineering

Sources:

Lightcast™

Employment and Training Administration, Competency Model Clearinghouse
2024 Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Top employers data is based on 2025 online job ads



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